S
331
E10me
cop. 2
Aug, 1977

AUGUST

1977

SEP 7 '77
STATE DOCUMENTS

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
P.O. BOX 1728
Helena, Montana
59601

JOB SERVICE

JAN 2 0 1982

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST 1977

STATE OF MONTANA

THOMAS L. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
DAVID E. FULLER, COMMISSIONER

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
FRED BARRETT, ADMINISTRATOR

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59601

Volume 7 Number 8

Produced by:
Research and Analysis
in cooperation with the
U. S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
and Bureau of Labor Statistics

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the Armed Forces.

2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.

3. Unemployment - the number of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).

4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

5. Residence Data - a count of employment by where people live.

6. Establishment Data - a count of employment by where people work.

7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonal factor method.

8. Composite Index - an aggregate of six leading indicators. The indicators used are: Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, total Accessions and Layoffs; Average Weekly Initial Claims; and statewide Building Permits. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is in no manner or form comparable to the United States composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.

9. Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Private Nonagricultural Production Workers - represents the earnings of a hypothetical individual after deductions for State Income, Federal Income and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard deductions on State and Federal income taxes. Taxes were computed using standard tax tables, and purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national Consumer Price Index.

10. WIN - Work Incentive Program for Aid to Dependent Children recipients.

11. CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974.

12. CETA-CEP - Concentrated Employment Program funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

13. SMSA - Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by Office of Management and Budget. Must have a central city with population of 50,000 or more.

14. LMA - Labor Market Area as determined by the Montana Employment Security Division consists of a central city or cities with population of less than 50,000, and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

SERIES CHANGE

Annually, the series in this publication are changed to reflect the most recent benchmark. This procedure is necessary to establish trends based on universe trends rather than sample trends. These benchmark series are usually published in the March publication establishing a benchmark date from the previous year. The reason this publication contains new benchmarks and is being published in July, results from the conversion to the 1972 Standard Industrial Classification codes (SIC) from the 1967 SIC codes. This change, along with benchmarking, necessitated publishing new series on all civilian labor force, establishment, and seasonally adjusted data. All series published prior to this publication have been based on 1967 SIC codes and will no longer be used.

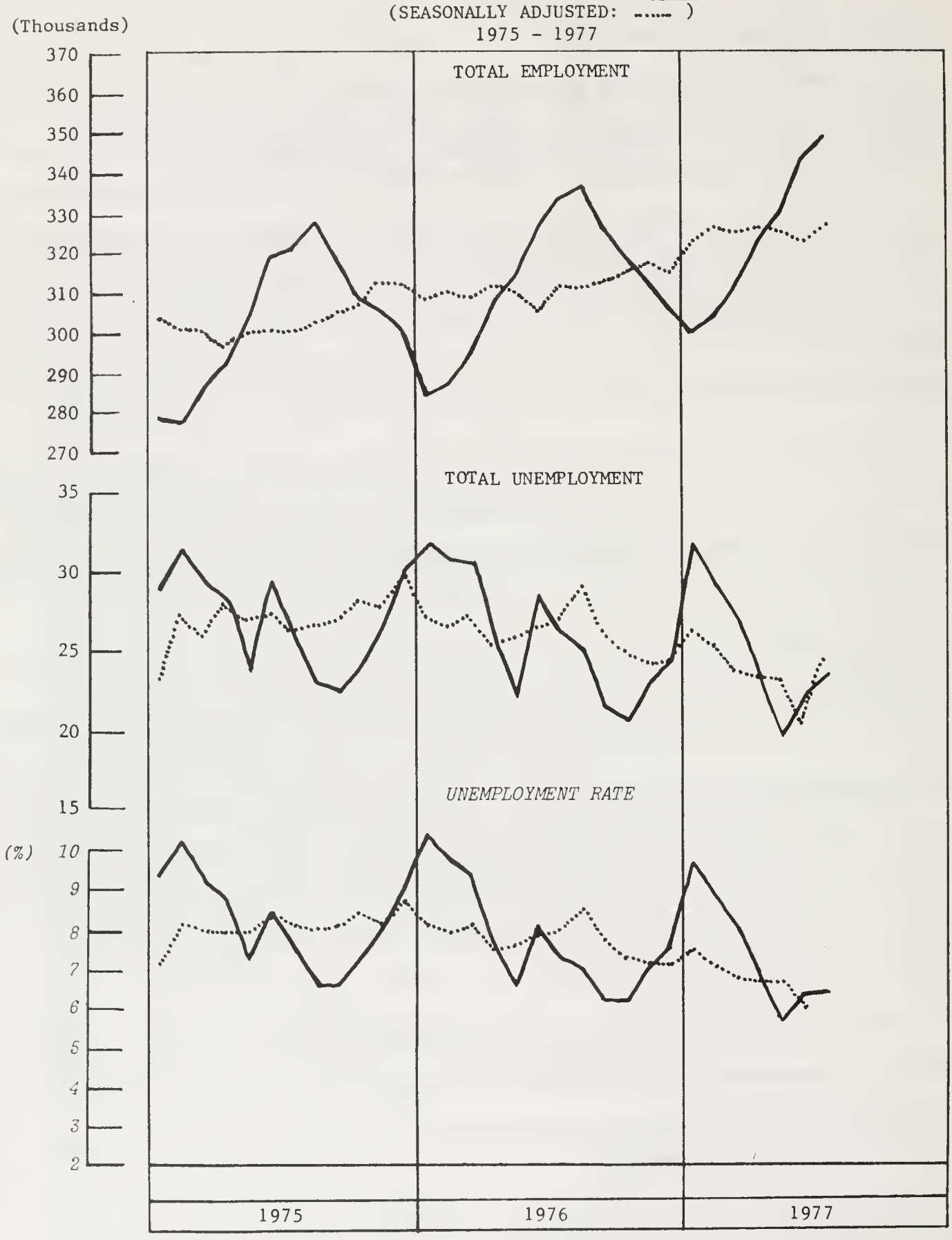
For the convenience of all users and to provide a statistically comparable data base, the civilian labor force and establishment data have been computed on the 1972 SIC codes beginning with January 1972 and continuing through the most recent month. The seasonally adjusted series have been revised from January 1975 through the most recent month reflecting these changes.

Included in this publication are the counties' civilian labor force annual averages for the years 1971 through 1976. The counties' monthly civilian labor force series for 1977 have been included and represent a statistically comparable data base to the statewide data benchmarks and 1972 SIC conversion. The methodology used in computing unemployment is based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics Handbook Method and is adjusted for additivity, i.e., all counties add to the statewide estimates. The Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey (CPS) method is not used to adjust for additivity.

If you desire more information concerning the benchmarks, 1972 SIC conversion, series updates, or methodologies please feel free to contact Mr. Dick Gibson, Supervisor, Research and Analysis, Employment Security Division, P.O. Box 1728, Helena, Montana 59601. Telephone: (406) 449-2430.

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: _____)
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: .....)
1975 - 1977



HIGHLIGHTS: JULY 1977

During July the seasonal expansion of Montana's civilian labor force continued. July's statewide employment stood at 348,400, a 1.6% increase from June's total of 342,900. However, the unemployment rate also edged upward (to 6.4%) as 1,000 additional workers joined the unemployment rolls. Even though July unemployment reached 23,800, it is appreciably improved from the 26,400 of a year ago.

This increased unemployment may be partially explained as a derivative effect of the shutdown of a large mining and smelting firm which was involved in a labor dispute. Some 3,000 workers in Anaconda, Butte, and Great Falls were off the job awaiting a contract settlement. The drop in payroll certainly had some adverse effects in the retail and services industries in those communities. Anticipating the possibility of a prolonged dispute, reportedly some merchants delayed summer hiring, pending the outcome of negotiations. In addition, businesses providing direct services to the mining firm were faced with laying off employees due to lack of work.

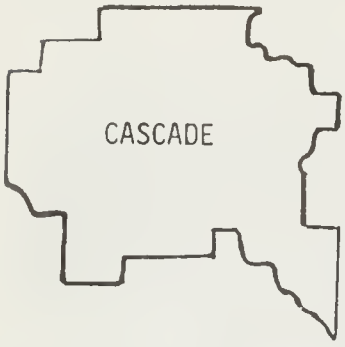
Despite labor disputes and problems in agriculture, Montana's economy remains stable. The construction industry continues to provide the major stimulus for the expansion of employment in the state. During July the work force in contract construction increased 5.3% (over 700 workers). Increases in employment were also noted in the stone, glass, and concrete industries as well as the retail building material and hardware industries.

Problems faced by most members of the lumber and wood products industry in the northwest part of the state became particularly acute in the Plains, Montana area, forcing the step-by-step closing of a major mill there. By the time total shutdown occurs this fall, approximately 130 jobs will have been terminated. The primary reason given for the closing is difficulty in securing and maintaining inventories of raw materials. Such problems are representative of those in other firms in the area which have been hurt by drought conditions, early inventory buildup, and fluctuating timber prices, among other things. For these reasons, the immediate future of the total industry this year is difficult to predict and justifies close observation.

In manufacturing all indications are that the industry will sustain the improvements of recent months. New hires were up 53% in July; accessions increased 33% during the period; layoffs were down 20%; and average weekly hours increased to 42.4% from 41.7% in June. Employment levels did drop, but only because of the number of workers involved in labor disputes.

On the whole the economic outlook of Montana remained unchanged in July. While there have been inconsistencies within certain industries, the overall effect is one of improvement. Also, further impetus may come from recent increases in real spendable earnings. During the seasonal downturn of the economy this fall, consumer spending is apt to be a major factor in preserving the advances of the first half of 1977.

GREAT FALLS SMSA (Cascade County)



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In July, the Great Falls labor force totaled 33,700 individuals, a gain of 300 from July 1976. The number of employed persons showed an even larger improvement, with an increase of 800. However, the 31,400 persons employed in July was 600 fewer than the previous month. This represented the first monthly decline in employment during 1977, (not adjusted for seasonality). Although not counted as unemployed, two major labor disputes affecting nearly 800 workers highlighted the employment picture in Great Falls for July. Agricultural employment rose to 1,800 workers in July, which was the same as July one year ago. Employment in this seasonal industry usually reaches its peak in August.

The number of jobless climbed 100 from June to 2,300 persons in July, 6.9% of the civilian labor force. In comparison, 2,800 people were out of work in July 1976, representing an 8.5% unemployment ratio.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Spurred by a residential and commercial building boom and the entry of new business establishments, the Great Falls area has enjoyed one of the best economic growth years since beginning of the 1960's. During the first seven months of 1977, a total of 309 new business firms were created in the area, compared with 145 new establishments in the same period during 1976. In terms of building permits, the cumulative total for the above mentioned period showed an 8.3% gain from 1976. This increase is further accentuated by the fact that 1976 was also a good building year. July's report revealed no indications of any real slackening in building activity, as a total of 95 permits were issued in the city with a valuation exceeding $3.1 million. Included in the valuation were 10 single family dwellings, six multi-family residences, a $1.38 million medical office complex, and a $300,000 car dealership relocation. Construction of a 60-unit apartment complex is reportedly nearing completion in Great Falls. The total cost of this project was estimated at $1.5 million.

A settlement was reached by union workers and company officials at the Great Falls smelter on July 27. The dispute began when negotiations failed at the end of a three-year pact at midnight June 30. However, one phase of the operation may not start up again until November. This could affect about 60 workers, and coupled with the fact that full production may not be reached for an indefinite time, a totol of about 100 workers may not be recalled to work. Also, the Great Falls city labor dispute was settled on the same date, with 172 workers returning to their jobs. Seven workers had still not reached a settlement with the city.

BILLINGS SMSA (Yellowstone County)

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In July, 52,700 individuals participated in civilian labor force in the Billings SMSA. This represents a growth rate of 6.5% from the same month in 1976, when the labor force totaled 49,500. The number of employed persons totaled 50,100, up 600 from June and 3,700 from July 1976. In terms of industrial sectors, government and trade have felt the greatest growth, with a net gain of 2,700 workers from year ago levels. The other major sectors are ahead of 1976 employment, except contract construction, which realized a 4% decline.

The unemployment situation weakened slightly in July as the unemployment rate jumped to 4.8% from 4.6% for the previous month. The actual number of jobless totaled 2,600, compared with 3,100 unemployed persons (6.3% unemployment rate) in July 1976.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

In June, bank debits in the city of Billings hit $825.3 million, 65% above the same month a year ago. This seems to point to a continuing positive trend for this economic indicator for 1977. In fact, cumulative bank debits for the first six months of 1977 are ahead of 1976 levels by just over 50%. New business formations in the first half of 1977 totaled 409, compared with 278 in 1976, just under a 50% gain. Since April, new car registrations have held ground with 1976 levels, although the cumulative total through July is still off 9% due to the slow start in the first quarter. The roof caved in on the building boom in the second quarter in Billings after setting a record pace in February and March. The total number of permits issued through July totaled 1,040, now about even with the total for the first six months of 1976.

New business activity was heavy during the past month with the opening of several retail establishments including: two sandwich shops, a pizza parlor, a Mexican fast food restaurant, and a retail clothing store. A manufacturer of insulation material became operational during the past month, with an initial staff of 12. By the first of September, a wholesale warehouse will be completed for a firm dealing in steel and other products. An oil and gas firm located in Canada is expected to open a Billings office sometime in October. The office will employ four geologists and a land secretary.

ANACONDA - BUTTE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In July, the civilian labor force stood just 600 shy of 40,000 workers in the six-county labor area. This represents a gain of 2,000 workers, 5.3% from July one year ago. The number of employed persons jumped from 32,500 in June to 36,000 workers in July - up 3,500. Silver Bow and Deer Lodge counties shared in the bulk of the employment increase, about 75%.

The jobless rolls rose 200 in July, which brought the total to 3,400 individuals or 8.7% of the civilian labor force. In July 1976, 9.6% of the work force were without jobs. The unemployment rate for the individual counties ranged from a low of 2.8% in Beaverhead County to a high of 10.9% in Silver Bow County.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

After over three weeks of negotiations, a labor dispute was settled between workers in Anaconda and Butte and the state's largest mining - smelting firm. The settlement affects about 2,400 workers in the two cities. Company officials announced that all workers would be back on their jobs by the end of August. The dispute affected retail sales in the two cities, although merchants are now quite optimistic about a sales upturn, with the labor settlement. In fact, the settlement could stimulate other facets in the economies of the affected areas.

A phosphate mining establishment in the Deer Lodge and Garrison area recalled its workers in the first part of August - about 90 persons. Also, a positive indicator, was the announcement that a new lumber mill will be opening in the Phillipsburg area. The company will initially operate with a one shift - 25 worker crew. Area timber fallers will be welcoming the additional market for logs. The firm will manufacture 2 x 4 studs, producing about 100,000 board feet per shift. The area has suffered from particularly high unemployment since the closure of a lumber mill in 1976. The new firm will not solve all of the unemployment problems, but it will definitely help alleviate the situation.

As noted in earlier issues, the state hospital in Warm Springs laid off about 90 workers on June 30. Now some of these people are being recalled due to normal attrition.

In the agriculture industry, employment is reaching its yearly peak with the second cutting of hay crops and grain harvesting.

BOZEMAN LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In July an additional 400 individuals entered the job market in the Bozeman labor market area. However, at 25,600, the civilian labor pool fell 3.4% from the same month one year ago. The number of jobholders climbed 300 from June's level to a total of 24,300 workers, which was still 600 below last year's pace.

The unemployment picture revealed no significant changes from last month, although the number of jobless persons jumped 100 to 1,300 or 5.1% of the labor force. This compares with 4.7% in June and 6% for July 1976. In Gallatin County, the July rate hit 5%, up from 4.1% in June, while Meagher and Park Counties both noted declines in the unemployment rate for July - at 4% and 5.6%, respectively.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

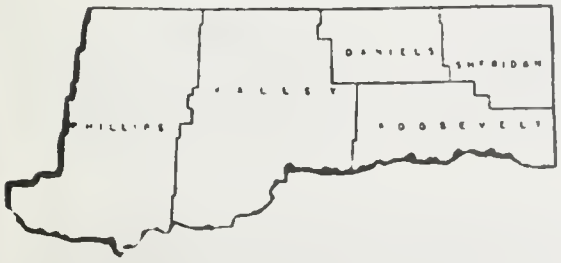
During the first seven months of 1977, new business activity has been strong in the three counties forming the Bozeman labor area. A total of 276 new firms have entered the area, compared with 146 for the same period in 1976. Bank debits also revealed a positive trend in terms of spending levels. During the first half of 1977 bank debits jumped 14% in the city of Bozeman and 24% in Livingston over the comparable period one year ago.

In Gallatin County, construction continues on the $1.5 million airport terminal near Belgrade and a 6,800 sq. ft. expansion project at a chain grocery store in Bozeman. The bulk of the building activity has been residential home building. The Bozeman job service office reported that employment has been relatively stable in the building industry, and hiring activity has been minimal during August. A franchise fast food restaurant is planning on beginning construction of a facility in Bozeman, with a work force of about 60 when completed.

Area farmers and ranchers were active during the past month, as harvesting of winter wheat, barley and oat crops was in full swing. The other major activity was equipment maintenance in preparation for the second cutting of alfalfa hay. The per-acre yields are reportedly down from "normal" levels for the area. In terms of employment, supply is meeting demand for qualified help.

GLASGOW LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



The civilian labor force rose 600 in June, bringing July's total to 19,300. Of the total number of new workers, 500 found employment and 100 joined the ranks of the unemployed. This caused a .4% point increase in the unemployment rate to 6.6% in July. This rate is 1.2% points above the 5.4% unemployment rate of one year ago.

Part of the increase in unemployed workers might be attributed to the layoffs due to contract terminations at the Glasgow Air Force Base.

GLASGOW LMA (Cont.)

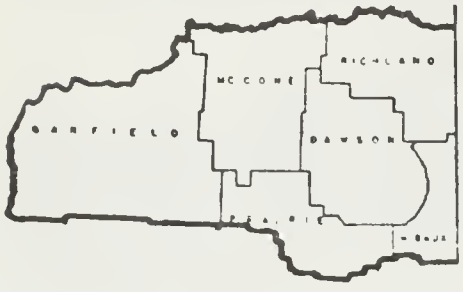
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The construction and retail industries continue to show highly favorable activity. Construction work continued on partially completed projects while retail sales were boosted by a week-long Fort Peck employee reunion celebration.

New business openings for the month equalled 12, bringing the year's total to 80, 4 above last year's total for the same period. Included in new business activity is the Glasgow Packing company, a meat packing plant expected to open in early September. Hiring activities have already been initiated.

GLENDIVE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



The civilian labor force rose 500 over June's figures of 15,200. Along with the increase of available workers came an increase in employment. The total number of employed workers equalled 15,100 for the month, an increase of 500 from last month.

Unemployment increased by 75, causing the unemployment rate for July to increase .3% points to 4.0%. Only two areas in the state have unemployment rates which are above 1976, with the Glendive area being one of the two areas, .6% points above July of 1976.

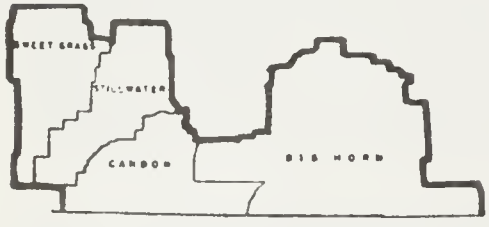
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The Glendive local office reports that construction is thriving in the Glendive area. Highway construction and new home building are the main contributors to the boom. The new bank has been completed and is open for business. The Sidney local office also reports stepped-up activity in the construction industry, with work going strong on a credit union building, an apartment complex, and a restaurant.

Total new business openings for the first seven months of 1977 are 77.7% above last year's, with 12 new openings during July in the Glendive labor market area.

Rainfall in the area has been approximately 45% of normal according to the Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting services. The decreased precipitation has advanced grain harvest to one of the earliest in recent years.

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

Five hundred workers entered the Red Lodge labor market area's work force this month, bringing July's total civilian labor force to 13,500. Of the total number of workers available, 12,800 are reported as employed, leaving 700 jobless.

The total number of unemployed increased by 100 over June 1977, bringing the unemployment rate to 5.0%, six tenths of a percentage point above the June 1977 rate of 4.4%. Although the July rate increased, it is still

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA (Cont.)

well below the July 1976 rate of 6.3%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Nine new businesses opened in the Hardin-Red Lodge area during July, the cumulative total of new business openings is 26.9% above 1976 totals, signifying a slight upturn in the economy. However, new car registrations are 106 below last year's level of 372.

HAVRE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

Unemployment decreased by 100 during July after increasing 300 during June. Accompanying the drop in unemployment, was an increase in the civilian labor force to 14,300 and a rise in the number of employed workers to 13,600. The combined effect brought a drop of .4% points in the June unemployment rate, leaving July's figure at 5.2%. This figure is 1.2% points below July a year ago.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Thirteen new businesses opened in the Havre labor market area with eleven of the openings in Hill County. Bank debits show a cumulative total of $1.6 million for the first 6 months of the year, an increase of 32% over last year's levels. New car registrations remain 29.7% below the comparable period during 1976.

The main activity in the area is grain harvesting. Although harvesting is in full swing, few job openings have resulted partially due to low crop yield.

HELENA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The Helena labor market area's civilian labor force showed continued increases during the month of July. The level now stands at 26,900, reflecting an increase of 500 since last month and an increase of 1,700 since July 1976. This month's 5.9% unemployment rate is slightly higher than last month's rate, however unemployment still remains lower than that experienced with the 6.1% rate in July 1976.

Unemployment claims have remained relatively stable over the past month. The threat of a strike by local telephone company workers created some initial expectation of an increased volume of unemployment claims. However, this event was avoided and normal conditions have prevailed. Much of the continuing claims activity has been due to extended benefits programs for the unemployed.

HELENA LMA (Cont.)

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Area indicators of economic activity are positive for the most part this month. Cumulative bank debits through June are 26% greater than last year; new businesses for the year to date have surpassed last year's numbers by almost 90%; and new car registrations are close to last year's level despite a slow seasonal start. Building permits issued for the month were 63; down 30% from June's figures. Permit declines for this time of year are not uncommon, however, and construction activity has remained high.

There has been a renewed interest in the area mining industry, which could have a beneficial effect upon Helena's economy. Preliminary testing has shown substantial deposits of graphite and tungsten, with good area access. A newly opened mill has been operating continuously during the testing period, and it is hoped that further successful development of this enterprise will take place. Other area developments include the September 15 opening of a national restaurant franchise in Helena. The Helena Job Service has received requests for 60 to 70 people to operate and maintain the new restaurant. Area retail firms reported very heavy business activity associated with the National High School Rodeo Championships which were held in Helena recently. Some establishments recorded sales which surpassed their largest Christmas volumes.

Agricultural conditions in the area are very good generally, although the supply of farm labor is exceeding demand at the present time. Crop yields are reported to be about average for the area, and harvesting is progressing well.

KALISPELL LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

Employment in the Kalispell labor market area has remained stable in comparison to the total civilian labor force over the past month. The labor force showed an increase from 33,400 in June, to 34,400 in July, with total employment increasing from 30,300 to 31,300 over the same period. These figures represent an improved situation in terms of the rate of unemployment, which has dropped from a level of 9.3% to 8.9% over the past four weeks. The rate further reflects a 1.9% decrease in unemployment over the past year, with the unemployment rate being 10.8% in July 1976.

Unemployment claims for the month were concentrated largely in the construction industry and wholesale and retail trade sectors. In general, claims showed no atypical increases or decreases in any industrial category.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The Kalispell area economic scene has not experienced any abnormal changes during July, but this is not to say that inactivity has been present. On the contrary, construction is continuing at a strong pace despite its current low level of new hiring. Building projects started in the past few months are progressing well in all areas, and payrolls remain steady. One major project has begun in Libby, with excavation started on a new 24-unit apartment complex, valued at $366,000. Building permits in the labor area declined 33% from June, but a seasonal drop at this time of year is not uncommon.

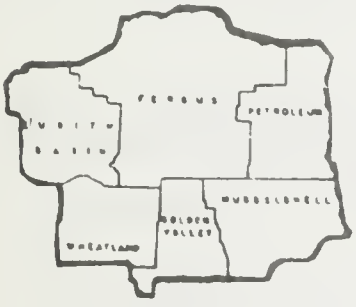
KALISPELL LMA (Cont.)

Drought conditions have affected the lumber and logging operations throughout the northwest part of the state to one degree or another. Early in the month the industry was stable and some hiring was taking place. With the forests drying up continuously, however, the danger of fire has increased to its expected peak for the season. Anticipation of these conditions led to increased logging at the beginning of summer and has resulted in an unusually high inventory of logs in Libby. As a result, several logging contractors have been cut back to a four day per week schedule, while others have been laid off. In contrast, the Polson area reports that a bid has been let for eleven million board feet of lumber, and work is expected to begin in September.

Continued strong tourism, and the Northwest Montana Fair in Kalispell have kept the retail trade and service industries busy throughout July. Cumulative bank debits for the year are up 26% over last year, and the establishment of 56 new businesses in the area has made that year-to-date total 344, up 73% from last year's figure of 199. New car registrations are also a positive economic indicator this month, showing a comparatively high total of 181.

With the cherry picking season ended, some decrease in agricultural employment has occurred in Polson and Kalispell. The Polson Job Service office estimates that about 120 persons will be thrown back into its labor market pool as a result of seasonal downturn. Other area farm conditions are good, though, and this has had a stabilizing effect on employment in the agricultural sector.

LEWISTOWN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In July the labor force in the Lewistown labor area continued the upward trend which began in the first quarter of 1977. The total number of workers in the area increased from 11,700 in June, to 12,200 this month. Overall employment also advanced from 11,000 to 11,700 over the past month, causing the unemployment rate to drop from a previous level of 5.7% to 4.5%.

Unemployment claims during July showed little fluctuation. Early in the month, the Lewistown Job Service reported a significant drop in claims due to a combination of harvest hiring and strong construction activity. However, no noticeable change in claims occured during the remainder of the period.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

For the most part, the economy and employment situation in and around Lewistown has shown signs of good health during the past month.

The construction industry remains a strong economic force with a number of projects beginning and many others continuing at a brisk pace. Among the recent building starts are a new banking facility; a 72-unit housing development with three homes under construction; three churches; one restaurant; an office building; and two warehouses. Work is also progressing on the remodeling of a number of other area establishments. Overall, construction seems to be stronger than in previous years.

The retail trade and service sectors of industry are also showing signs of improvement, with some increases possible in the next month. Local retailers are already feeling the back-to-school buying boosts, with weekly increases in trade. Bank debits, one indicator

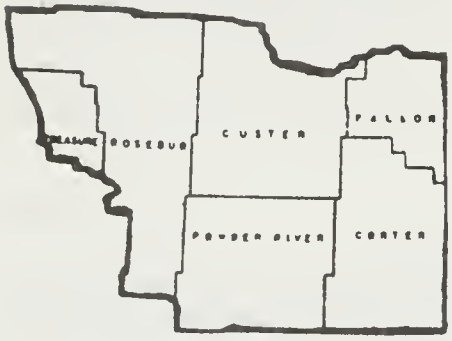
LEWISTOWN LMA (Cont.)

of economic trends, showed a cumulative level of $212,629 for the year through June. This figure represents a 6% increase over last year's comparable period. Perhaps more significant is the fact that debits for June alone were $42,347; a full 34% greater than the bank debits for June 1976. Furthermore, the establishment of 70 new businesses to date this year is twice the number begun in the same period of 1976.

In the agricultural sector, harvesting continues in full swing with more than 85% of the winter wheat gathered and over 25% of the spring wheat harvest completed. Under these circumstances, ranch and farm hiring has remained stable since increasing early in the month.

In other industrial groups, business has remained steady overall. Mining showed slight exception, with the temporary shutdown of an ore mill in the area.

MILES CITY LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force of the Miles City area has once again experienced an increase for the month. Up from June's level of 15,800, the current force is 16,300 strong. The number of employed persons too, has jumped 500, and brings the total to 15,600. Unfortunately, unemployment has also increased slightly, and its rate (as a percentage of the civilian labor force) now stands at 4.5%, as compared with last month's 4.4%.

The majority of unemployment claims this month have come from the construction and service industries. A sharp rise in claims occurred during one particular week due to a mass layoff by a construction firm. The local Job Service office reported that about thirty people were laid off because of lack of work.

Other labor market activity is considered slow but is picking up. No shortages in manpower are foreseen in the immediate future.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Some slight improvements in the area economy have taken place during the past month as indicated by certain industrial information. Among other things, the formation of new businesses in the Miles City LMA was almost 17% greater this July than it was in July 1976. The total number of new businesses registered this month was fourteen. Bank debits, another gauge of economic performance, amounted to $42,102 in June of this year. This is 16% more than the debits recorded in June last year, one indication of increased consumer spending in the area.

Most construction projects are continuing as planned, as is business in the other industrial groups. Wheat harvest in the agricultural sector is virtually complete.

MISSOULA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

Claims activity in the Missoula LMA varied from town to town this month. Auto mechanics striking in Missoula contributed to unemployment claims, as did vacation closures and other temporary layoffs in related lumber industries. One area logging firm laid off 120 production workers for a two week period. The Thompson Falls area claim levels will feel the effects of the closing of a Plains lumber mill scheduled for early autumn. Section layoffs have already begun in the mill, and are expected to continue over the next months until permanent shutdown. Employment levels in other industrial areas have remained stable over the past month. In Hamilton, the Job Service office reports that increases in the level of unemployment claims being processed are due largely to the problems being experienced by the logging and lumber industry in the northwest. As in Missoula and Thompson Falls, temporary layoffs in lumber related businesses will cause some claims fluctuation. Log home builders in the area have received adequate orders, but have had to curtail construction because of their difficulty in obtaining enough logs.

The civilian labor force grew by 1,800 persons during the past month in the Missoula labor area. The number in force now is 48,100. Employment also increased during July, advancing from 42,800 in June to 44,400 people currently. Despite reported seasonal peaks in employment, the unemployment rate also increased during the month. June's rate stood at 7.7%, whereas in July a slightly higher 7.8% rate was present in the area.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

With many logging operations cut back to some degree, the construction industry appears to be dominating the economic and employment scene this month. Missoula, in particular, is moving ahead with many building projects. Plans were released by a local firm calling for construction of a new building on 20.8 acres of land in the southwest part of the city. The structure will allow for 152,000 square feet of office space and 86,000 square feet of commercial space to be occupied by small shops. Work on eighty-eight new housing units is also scheduled to begin in the near future, and another building complex is being planned which will include facilities for a number of small businesses, office space, and apartments. Construction on previously started projects is progressing well, and work on others is expected to be completed soon.

No new major construction has started in the Hamilton or Thompson Falls areas, but both cities report continued progress on existing works. In Hamilton, housing construction seems to be a bright spot, and plentiful loan money has caused local construction firms to receive many requests for bids.

The retail trade and service industries are still enjoying the business generated by the tourist season in the northwest, and volume is expected to remain strong with back-to-school sales beginning in most areas.

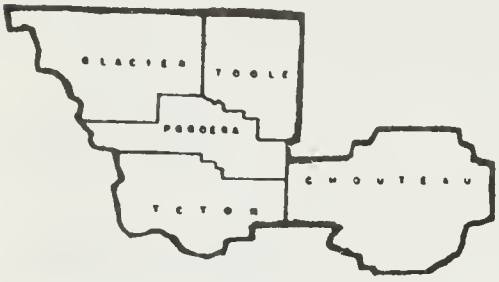
New business formations in the Missoula LMA are far ahead of the pace set from January to June 1976. This year, to date, 438 new businesses have been established; an increase of 63% over the comparable period last year. Cumulative bank debits, one indicator of consumer spending, are also up for the January to June 1977 period. They are currently 9% higher than those recorded in June 1976.

MISSOULA LMA (Cont.)

In the agricultural sector, harvesting of the cherry crops is complete and work on hay and wheat has progressed very well. With the end of harvest drawing near, less hiring is expected on farms and ranches.

The overall economic and employment scene may be described as stable and essentially normal for this time of year.

SHELBY LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force rose to 19,900 during July, an increase of 600 over June figures. Employment levels also rose by 600, completely absorbing the influx of new workers and leaving the number of unemployed constant at 1,100. The unemployment rate remained at 5.8%, three tenths of a percentage point below last year's rate for the same period.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction and grain harvest are in full swing in the Shelby labor market area. Drought conditions persist, although slight rainfall has relieved the situation somewhat. Some grain growers have cut their crops for hay due to poor conditions (including decreased yield and low grain prices).

Although the agricultural outlook is grim in the area, new business openings and bank debits show a favorable trend, with new business openings 82.6% above last year's figures and bank debits (a rough measure of consumer spending) 9% above a year ago.

MANPOWER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

JULY 1977

Program	New Enrollees	Job Placements	End of Month Enrollment
WIN	262	88	2,264
CETA-CEP	90	35	234
CETA-INST.	219	50	574
CETA-OJT	53	56	244
JOB CORPS	29	41	302
PSE TITLE II	57	18	326
PSE TITLE VI	138	55	935
PSE TITLE VI "A"	224	13	478

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U. S.[1/]

(1967 = 100)

Group	July 1977	*Percent Change From:* June 1977	July 1976
All Items	182.6	.4%	6.7%

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNEMPLOYED[2/]

JULY 1977

Social Characteristics	*Percent of Total Covered Unemployment*
Non-White	7.5%
Female	41.7%
Youth	6.9%
Over 45	25.7%

1/ The Consumer Price Index measures changes in prices of goods and services bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers, including families and single persons.

2/ Based on 20% sample of Continued Claims filed during the week including the 19th of each month in all local offices.

Table I

RESIDENCE DATA

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Disputes 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	U. S.	
1975								
January	308.7	279.8	253.0	26.8	28.9	*9.4*	*9.0*	*
February	309.6	278.2	250.8	27.4	31.4	*10.2*	*9.1*	.1
March	316.6	287.3	257.1	30.2	29.3	*9.2*	*9.1*	.3
April	320.3	292.3	259.4	32.9	28.0	*8.7*	*8.6*	.2
May	327.9	304.3	267.3	37.0	23.6	*7.2*	*8.3*	.1
June	349.1	319.7	278.9	40.8	29.4	*8.4*	*9.1*	.1
July	346.9	321.3	279.1	42.2	25.6	*7.4*	*8.7*	.2
August	350.9	327.9	280.7	47.2	23.0	*6.6*	*8.2*	*
September	340.2	317.7	279.3	38.4	22.5	*6.6*	*8.1*	.3
October	332.6	308.4	274.4	34.0	24.2	*7.3*	*7.8*	.3
November	332.4	305.8	274.3	31.5	26.6	*8.0*	*7.8*	.2
December	330.7	300.6	271.4	29.2	30.1	*9.1*	*7.8*	.2
1975 Avg.	330.5	303.6	268.8	34.8	26.9	*8.1*	*8.5*	.1
1976								
January	316.8	284.0	263.1	20.9	32.8	*10.4*	*8.8*	*
February	317.8	287.0	263.9	23.1	30.8	*9.7*	*8.7*	*
March	325.7	295.1	267.0	28.1	30.6	*9.4*	*8.1*	*
April	333.4	307.8	272.8	35.0	25.6	*7.7*	*7.4*	*
May	336.4	314.0	277.7	36.3	22.4	*6.6*	*6.7*	*
June	353.9	325.2	283.5	41.7	28.7	*8.1*	*8.0*	.1
July	359.4	333.0	288.1	44.9	26.4	*7.3*	*7.8*	.1
August	361.2	336.0	287.6	48.4	25.2	*7.0*	*7.6*	.1
September	346.8	325.2	287.2	38.0	21.6	*6.2*	*7.4*	.1
October	337.2	316.3	283.8	32.5	20.9	*6.2*	*7.2*	.1
November	334.0	310.8	282.6	28.2	23.2	*7.0*	*7.4*	.1
December	329.6	305.0	280.6	24.4	24.6	*7.5*	*7.4*	.1
1976 Avg.	337.7	311.6	278.2	33.4	26.1	*7.7*	*7.7*	.1
1977								
January	330.9	299.0	276.4	22.6	31.9	*9.7*	*8.3*	.1
February	332.2	302.9	278.1	24.8	29.4	*8.8*	*8.5*	.1
March	338.2	311.2	281.3	29.9	27.0	*8.0*	*7.9*	.1
April	345.7	322.0	285.0	37.0	23.7	*6.9*	*6.9*	.1
May	349.3	329.4	291.2	38.2	19.9	*5.7*	*6.4*	.1
June	365.7	342.9	299.4	43.5	22.8	*6.2*	*7.5*	.2
July	372.1	348.4	301.9	46.5	23.7	*6.4*	*7.0*	3.3
August	*368.2*	*348.2*	*298.4*	*49.8*	*20.0*	*5.4*		.2
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA

Table II

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1975								
January	31.1	28.5	27.4	1.1	2.6	*8.3*	*9.4*	*
February	31.2	28.2	27.1	1.1	3.0	*9.7*	*10.2*	*
March	31.8	29.0	27.8	1.2	2.8	*8.7*	*9.2*	.1
April	32.5	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.7	*8.3*	*8.7*	.1
May	32.7	30.3	28.8	1.5	2.4	*7.3*	*7.2*	*
June	33.7	30.9	29.3	1.6	2.8	*8.4*	*8.4*	*
July	33.7	31.0	29.3	1.7	2.7	*8.1*	*7.4*	*
August	33.7	31.2	29.3	1.9	2.5	*7.4*	*6.6*	*
September	33.3	30.9	29.4	1.5	2.4	*7.3*	*6.6*	*
October	33.0	30.3	29.0	1.3	2.7	*8.1*	*7.3*	*
November	33.0	30.4	29.2	1.2	2.6	*7.9*	*8.0*	*
December	33.0	30.2	29.0	1.2	2.8	*8.5*	*9.1*	*
1975 Avg.	32.7	30.0	28.6	1.4	2.7	*8.2*	*8.1*	*
1976								
January	30.6	27.5	26.7	.8	3.1	*10.2*	*10.4*	*
February	30.7	27.8	26.9	.9	2.9	*9.5*	*9.7*	*
March	31.3	28.3	27.2	1.1	3.0	*9.6*	*9.4*	*
April	31.5	29.0	27.6	1.4	2.5	*8.0*	*7.7*	*
May	31.9	29.6	28.2	1.4	2.3	*7.2*	*6.6*	*
June	33.7	30.5	28.9	1.6	3.2	*9.5*	*8.1*	*
July	33.4	30.6	28.8	1.8	2.8	*8.5*	*7.3*	*
August	33.0	30.4	28.5	1.9	2.6	*7.9*	*7.0*	*
September	32.3	30.2	28.7	1.5	2.1	*6.6*	*6.2*	*
October	32.4	30.2	28.9	1.3	2.2	*6.7*	*6.2*	*
November	32.1	29.9	28.8	1.1	2.2	*7.0*	*7.0*	*
December	32.2	30.0	29.0	1.0	2.2	*6.8*	*7.5*	*
1976 Avg.	32.1	29.5	28.2	1.3	2.6	*8.1*	*7.7*	*
1977								
January	32.2	29.2	28.3	.9	3.0	*9.2*	*9.7*	*
February	31.8	29.3	28.3	1.0	2.5	*7.8*	*8.8*	*
March	32.4	30.0	28.8	1.2	2.4	*7.3*	*8.0*	*
April	32.5	30.5	29.0	1.5	2.0	*6.2*	*6.9*	*
May	32.9	31.0	29.5	1.5	1.9	*5.6*	*5.7*	*
June	34.2	32.0	30.3	1.7	2.2	*6.4*	*6.2*	*
July	33.7	31.4	29.6	1.8	2.3	*6.9*	*6.4*	.6
August	*32.0*	*29.8*	*27.8*	*2.0*	*2.2*	*6.7*	*5.4*	*
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

Table III

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1975								
January	45.4	42.0	40.8	1.2	3.4	*7.6*	*9.4*	*
February	45.1	41.5	40.2	1.3	3.6	*8.0*	*10.2*	*
March	45.6	42.0	40.6	1.4	3.6	*7.9*	*9.2*	.1
April	46.8	43.4	41.9	1.5	3.4	*7.3*	*8.7*	*
May	47.1	44.5	42.8	1.7	2.6	*5.6*	*7.2*	*
June	49.0	45.6	43.7	1.9	3.4	*7.0*	*8.4*	*
July	49.5	46.3	44.4	1.9	3.2	*6.5*	*7.4*	*
August	49.2	46.1	43.9	2.2	3.1	*6.2*	*6.6*	*
September	48.5	45.6	43.8	1.8	2.9	*5.9*	*6.6*	.2
October	48.4	45.6	44.0	1.6	2.8	*5.8*	*7.3*	.2
November	49.2	46.4	45.0	1.4	2.8	*5.8*	*8.0*	*
December	48.6	45.4	44.1	1.3	3.2	*6.5*	*9.1*	*
1975 Avg.	47.7	44.5	42.9	1.6	3.2	*6.7*	*8.1*	*
1976								
January	45.2	41.5	40.5	1.0	3.7	*8.2*	*10.4*	*
February	45.2	42.0	40.9	1.1	3.2	*7.2*	*9.7*	*
March	46.1	42.7	41.4	1.3	3.4	*7.4*	*9.4*	*
April	47.1	44.3	42.7	1.6	2.8	*6.0*	*7.7*	*
May	48.2	45.9	44.2	1.7	2.3	*4.8*	*6.6*	*
June	49.4	46.0	44.1	1.9	3.4	*7.0*	*8.1*	*
July	49.5	46.4	44.3	2.1	3.1	*6.3*	*7.3*	*
August	49.0	46.2	44.0	2.2	2.8	*5.8*	*7.0*	*
September	48.9	46.5	44.8	1.7	2.4	*4.9*	*6.2*	*
October	49.7	47.4	45.9	1.5	2.3	*4.7*	*6.2*	*
November	50.3	47.8	46.5	1.3	2.5	*4.9*	*7.0*	*
December	50.3	47.5	46.4	1.1	2.8	*5.6*	*7.5*	*
1976 Avg.	48.2	45.3	43.8	1.5	2.9	*6.0*	*7.7*	*
1977								
January	50.0	46.2	45.2	1.0	3.8	*7.6*	*9.7*	*
February	50.2	46.8	45.7	1.1	3.4	*6.7*	*8.8*	*
March	50.5	47.5	46.1	1.4	3.0	*6.0*	*8.0*	*
April	50.4	47.8	46.1	1.7	2.6	*5.1*	*6.9*	*
May	50.4	48.1	46.3	1.8	2.3	*4.5*	*5.7*	*
June	51.9	49.5	47.5	2.0	2.4	*4.6*	*6.2*	*
July	52.7	50.1	48.0	2.1	2.6	*4.8*	*6.4*	*
August	*51.1*	*49.0*	*46.7*	*2.3*	*2.1*	*4.2*	*5.4*	.1
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table IV

MONTANA

Statewide Employment by Industry

JULY 1977

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	July 1977	June 1977	July 1976	Net Changes to Current Month from: June 1977	Net Changes to Current Month from: July 1976
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	372.1	365.7	359.4	6.4	12.7
EMPLOYED PERSONS	348.4	342.9	333.0	5.5	15.4
Persons Employed in Agriculture	46.5	43.5	44.9	3.0	1.6
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	23.7	22.8	26.4	.9	-2.7
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*6.4*	*6.2*	*7.3*	*.2*	*-.9*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*6.9*	*5.9*	*8.0*	*1.0*	*-1.1*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*265.6*	*266.9*	*256.7*	*-1.3*	*8.9*
MANUFACTURING	*23.8*	*25.1*	*24.4*	*-1.3*	*-.6*
Durable Goods	*15.2*	*16.6*	*15.6*	*-1.4*	*-.4*
24 Lumber and Wood Products	*10.6*	*10.4*	*9.4*	*.2*	*1.2*
33 Primary Metal Industries	*1.7*	*3.4*	*3.4*	*-1.7*	*-1.7*
Other Durable Goods	*2.9*	*2.8*	*2.8*	*.1*	*.1*
Nondurable Goods	*8.6*	*8.5*	*8.8*	*.1*	*-.2*
20 Food and Kindred Products	*3.8*	*3.6*	*3.9*	*.2*	*-.1*
27 Printing and Publishing	*1.9*	*2.0*	*2.0*	*-.1*	*-.1*
29 Petroleum and Coal Products	*1.3*	*1.3*	*1.4*	*0*	*-.1*
Other Nondurable Goods	*1.6*	*1.6*	*1.5*	*0*	*.1*
MINING	*4.4*	*5.8*	*5.9*	*-1.4*	*-1.5*
10 Metal Mining	*.7*	*2.1*	*2.3*	*-1.4*	*-1.6*
12 & 14 Bitum. Coal, Quarrying, Non-Metal Mining	*1.4*	*1.4*	*1.6*	*0*	*-.2*
13 Oil and Gas Extraction	*2.3*	*2.3*	*2.0*	*0*	*.3*

CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	14.7	14.0	15.8	.7	-1.1
15 General Building Contractors	5.3	5.0	5.5	.3	-.2
16 Heavy Construction Contractors	4.3	4.0	4.6	.3	-.3
17 Special Trade Contractors	5.1	5.0	5.7	.1	-.6
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	20.2	20.0	19.6	.2	.6
40 Railroad Transportation	6.3	6.3	6.2	0	.1
41-47 Transportation, except Railroad	5.8	5.7	5.8	.1	0
48 & 49 Commun., Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	8.1	8.0	7.6	.1	.5
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	69.8	68.4	66.3	1.4	3.5
Wholesale Trade	16.6	16.9	15.4	-.3	1.2
Retail Trade	53.2	51.5	50.9	1.7	2.3
53 & 56 General Merchandise, Apparel, Accessories	8.5	8.5	7.9	0	.6
54 Food Stores	6.8	6.6	6.7	.2	.1
55 Automotive Dealers, Service Stations	8.2	8.2	8.8	0	-.6
58 Eating and Drinking Places	20.3	19.0	18.5	1.3	1.8
52, 57, 59 Bldg. Mat., Farm Equip., Furn., Misc.	9.4	9.2	9.0	.2	.4
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	11.5	11.3	10.7	.2	.8
SERVICES	51.5	51.4	49.4	.1	2.1
70 Hotels and other Lodging Places	7.4	7.4	7.5	0	-.1
72 Personal Services	2.7	2.5	2.4	.2	.3
80 Medical and other Health Services	16.0	16.3	15.1	-.3	.9
Other Services	25.4	25.2	24.4	.2	1.0
GOVERNMENT	69.7	70.9	64.6	-1.2	5.1
91 Federal Government	14.7	14.7	14.4	0	.3
92 State Colleges and Universities	8.4	8.5	9.2	-.1	-.8
92 Other State Government	11.5	11.3	10.5	.2	1.0
93 Local Education	20.5	21.8	20.0	-1.3	.5
93 Other Local Government	14.6	14.6	10.5	0	4.1

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers. Current month preliminary. Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Establisment Series began January 1964; Residence Series began January 1970.

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table V

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

JULY 1977

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	July 1977	June 1977	July 1976	Net Changes to Current Month from: June 1977	Net Changes to Current Month from: July 1976
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1/]	33.7	34.2	33.4	-.5	.3
EMPLOYED PERSONS	31.4	32.0	30.6	-.6	.8
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.8	1.7	1.8	.1	0
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.3	2.2	2.8	.1	-.5
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2/]	*6.9*	*6.4*	*8.5*	*.5*	*-1.6*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2/]	*6.9*	*5.5*	*8.6*	*1.4*	*-1.7*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*27.9*	*28.9*	*26.8*	*-1.0*	*1.1*
Manufacturing	*1.2*	*1.8*	*1.8*	*-.6*	*-.6*
Contract Construction	*1.8*	*1.6*	*2.0*	*.2*	*-.2*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*1.9*	*1.9*	*2.1*	*0*	*-.2*
Trade	*8.6*	*8.5*	*8.3*	*.1*	*.3*
Wholesale Trade	*2.3*	*2.4*	*2.4*	*-.1*	*-.1*
Retail Trade	*6.3*	*6.1*	*5.9*	*.2*	*.4*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*1.8*	*1.7*	*1.6*	*.1*	*.2*
Services and Mining	*6.8*	*6.9*	*5.2*	*-.1*	*1.6*
Government	*5.8*	*6.5*	*5.8*	*-.7*	*0*
Federal Government	*2.2*	*2.2*	*2.1*	*0*	*.1*
State and Local Government	*3.6*	*4.3*	*3.7*	*-.7*	*-.1*

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.

2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

Table VI

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

JULY 1977

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	July 1977	June 1977	July 1976	Net Changes to Current Month from: June 1977	Net Changes to Current Month from: July 1976
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	52.7	51.9	49.5	.8	3.2
EMPLOYED PERSONS	50.1	49.5	46.4	.6	3.7
Persons Employed in Agriculture	2.1	2.0	2.1	.1	0
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.6	2.4	3.1	.2	-.5
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*4.8*	*4.6*	*6.3*	*.2*	*-1.5*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*4.7*	*4.0*	*6.2*	*.7*	*-1.5*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*42.8*	*42.4*	*39.5*	*.4*	*3.3*
Manufacturing	*3.6*	*3.5*	*3.5*	*.1*	*.1*
Contract Construction	*2.4*	*2.3*	*2.5*	*.1*	*-.1*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*3.3*	*3.2*	*3.2*	*.1*	*.1*
Trade	*14.8*	*14.9*	*13.6*	*-.1*	*1.2*
Wholesale Trade	*5.2*	*5.3*	*4.8*	*-.1*	*.4*
Retail Trade	*9.6*	*9.6*	*8.8*	*0*	*.8*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*2.0*	*2.0*	*1.8*	*0*	*.2*
Services and Mining	*8.0*	*7.9*	*7.7*	*.1*	*.3*
Government	*8.7*	*8.6*	*7.2*	*.1*	*1.5*
Federal Government	*2.0*	*1.9*	*1.9*	*.1*	*.1*
State and Local Government	*6.7*	*6.7*	*5.3*	*0*	*1.4*

1/ *Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.*

2/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

Table VII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	May 1977	June 1977	July 1977	May 1977	June 1977	July 1977	May 1977	June 1977	July 1977	May 1977	June 1977	July 1977
STATEWIDE	349.3	365.7	372.1	329.4	342.9	348.4	19.9	22.8	23.7	5.7	6.2	6.4
GREAT FALLS SMSA	32.9	34.2	33.7	31.0	32.0	31.4	1.9	2.2	2.3	5.6	6.4	6.9
BILLINGS SMSA	50.4	51.9	52.7	48.1	49.5	50.1	2.3	2.4	2.6	4.5	4.6	4.8
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	266.0	279.6	285.7	250.3	261.4	266.9	15.7	18.2	18.8	5.9	6.5	6.6
ANACONDA-BUTTE	34.4	35.7	39.4	31.9	32.5	36.0	2.5	3.2	3.4	7.3	9.1	8.7
BOZEMAN	24.5	25.2	25.6	23.3	24.0	24.3	1.2	1.2	1.3	5.0	4.7	5.1
GLASGOW	17.9	18.7	19.3	17.0	17.5	18.0	.9	1.2	1.3	5.0	6.2	6.6
GLENDIVE	14.7	15.2	15.7	14.3	14.6	15.1	.4	.6	.6	2.8	3.7	4.0
HARDIN-RED LODGE	12.5	13.0	13.5	11.9	12.4	12.8	.6	.6	.7	4.8	4.4	5.0
HAVRE	13.3	13.8	14.3	12.8	13.0	13.6	.5	.8	.7	3.8	5.6	5.2
HELENA	25.8	26.4	26.9	24.6	24.9	25.3	1.2	1.5	1.6	4.8	5.7	5.8
KALISPELL	32.7	33.4	34.4	29.7	30.3	31.3	3.0	3.1	3.0	9.3	9.3	8.9
LEWISTOWN	11.0	11.7	12.2	10.5	11.0	11.7	.5	.7	.5	4.8	5.7	4.5
MILES CITY	15.6	15.8	16.3	15.0	15.1	15.6	.6	.7	.7	3.8	4.4	4.5
MISSOULA	45.3	46.3	48.1	42.4	42.8	44.4	3.4	3.5	3.7	7.4	7.7	7.8
SHELBY-CUT BANK	17.7	19.3	19.9	16.8	18.2	18.8	.9	1.1	1.1	4.8	5.8	5.8

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

TABLE VIII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	July 1977	July 1976	Percent Change 1976-1977	July 1977	July 1976	Percent Change 1976-1977	July 1977	July 1976	Net Change 1976-1977	July 1977	July 1976	Net Change 1976-1977
STATEWIDE	372.1	359.4	3.5	348.4	333.0	4.6	23.7	26.4	-2.7	6.4	7.3	-.9
GREAT FALLS SMSA	33.7	33.4	.9	31.4	30.6	2.6	2.3	2.8	-.5	6.9	8.5	-1.6
BILLINGS SMSA	52.7	49.5	6.5	50.1	46.4	8.0	2.6	3.1	-.5	4.8	6.3	-1.5
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	285.7	276.5	3.3	266.9	256.0	4.3	18.8	20.5	-1.7	6.6	7.4	-.8
ANACONDA-BUTTE	39.4	37.4	5.3	36.0	33.8	6.5	3.4	3.6	-.2	8.7	9.6	-.9
BOZEMAN	25.6	26.5	-3.4	24.3	24.9	-2.4	1.3	1.6	-.3	5.1	6.0	-.9
GLASGOW	19.3	18.2	6.0	18.0	17.2	4.7	1.3	1.0	.3	6.6	5.4	1.2
GLENDIVE	15.7	15.1	4.0	15.1	14.6	3.4	.6	.5	.1	4.0	3.4	.6
HARDIN-RED LODGE	13.5	12.8	5.5	12.8	12.0	6.7	.7	.8	-.1	5.0	6.3	-1.3
HAVRE	14.3	13.6	5.1	13.6	12.7	7.1	.7	.9	-.2	5.2	6.4	-1.2
HELENA	26.9	25.2	6.7	25.3	23.7	6.8	1.6	1.5	.1	5.9	6.1	-.2
KALISPELL	34.4	35.2	-2.3	31.3	31.4	-.3	3.0	3.8	-.8	8.9	10.8	-1.9
LEWISTOWN	12.2	12.0	1.7	11.7	11.4	2.6	.5	.6	-.1	4.5	4.9	-.4
MILES CITY	16.3	15.6	4.5	15.6	14.8	5.4	.7	.8	-.1	4.5	5.1	-.6
MISSOULA	48.1	45.6	5.5	44.4	41.5	7.0	3.7	4.1	-.4	7.8	9.1	-1.3
SHELBY-CUT BANK	19.9	19.1	4.2	18.8	17.9	5.0	1.1	1.2	-.1	5.8	6.1	-.3

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

TABLE IX

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE, BY COUNTY

JULY 1977

AREA	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
BEAVERHEAD	4,872	4,738	134	2.8
BIG HORN	5,031	4,602	429	8.5
BLAINE	3,460	3,247	213	6.2
BROADWATER	1,539	1,481	58	3.8
CARBON	3,949	3,805	144	3.6
CARTER	1,168	1,121	47	4.0
CHOUTEAU	3,878	3,777	101	2.6
CUSTER	5,941	5,681	260	4.4
DANIELS	1,683	1,639	44	2.6
DAWSON	5,405	5,135	270	5.0
DEER LODGE	7,712	6,953	759	9.8
FALLON	2,314	2,254	60	2.6
FERGUS	6,230	5,934	296	4.8
FLATHEAD	19,915	18,138	1,777	8.9
GALLATIN	18,918	17,976	942	5.0
GARFIELD	1,113	1,045	68	6.1
GLACIER	6,035	5,512	523	8.7
GOLDEN VALLEY	546	523	23	4.2
GRANITE	1,217	1,112	105	8.6
HILL	9,496	9,008	488	5.1
JEFFERSON	3,370	3,154	216	6.4
JUDITH BASIN	1,533	1,486	47	3.1
LAKE	7,781	7,219	562	7.2
LEWIS and CLARK	21,949	20,628	1,321	6.0
LIBERTY	1,357	1,318	39	2.9
LINCOLN	6,682	5,977	705	10.6
McCONE	1,753	1,704	49	2.8
MADISON	2,870	2,780	90	3.1
MEAGHER	1,006	966	40	4.0
MINERAL	1,809	1,680	129	7.1
MISSOULA	33,991	31,482	2,509	7.4
MUSSELSHELL	2,014	1,874	140	7.0
PARK	5,711	5,391	320	5.6
PETROLEUM	410	404	6	1.5
PHILLIPS	3,159	2,980	179	5.7
PONDERA	4,033	3,779	254	6.3
POWDER RIVER	1,367	1,318	49	3.6
POWELL	3,349	3,118	231	6.9
PRAIRIE	1,191	1,174	17	1.4
RAVALLI	7,282	6,568	714	9.8
RICHLAND	5,499	5,298	201	3.7
ROOSEVELT	6,366	6,013	353	5.5
ROSEBUD	4,899	4,607	292	6.0
SANDERS	5,036	4,648	388	7.7
SHERIDAN	2,763	2,702	61	2.2
SILVER BOW	19,379	17,260	2,119	10.9
STILLWATER	2,675	2,609	66	2.5
SWEET GRASS	1,856	1,820	36	1.9
TETON	3,015	2,908	107	3.5
TOOLE	2,965	2,787	178	6.0
TREASURE	637	609	28	4.4
VALLEY	5,329	4,696	633	11.9
WHEATLAND	1,485	1,449	36	2.4
WIBAUX	801	775	26	3.2

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

TABLE X

MONTANA

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

JULY 1977

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	FEMALE EMPLOYMENT					TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COMPARISON			
				Net Change to Current Month From:		Total	Percent Women	Total	Percent Women
	July 1977 1/	June 1977	July 1976	June 1977	July 1976	July	1977	June	1977
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers .	110.1	109.8	102.4	.3	7.7	265.6	*41.5*	267.0	*41.1*
Manufacturing	3.1	3.0	3.1	.1	0	24.9	*13.0*	25.1	*12.0*
Mining	.3	.3	.3	0	0	4.4	*6.8*	5.8	*5.2*
Contract Construction	1.1	1.0	1.1	.1	0	14.7	*7.5*	14.0	*7.1*
Transportation & Public Utilities .	3.8	3.8	3.6	0	.2	20.2	*18.8*	20.0	*19.0*
Wholesale & Retail Trade	31.6	30.6	28.4	1.0	3.2	69.8	*45.3*	68.4	*44.7*
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate ..	7.2	7.1	6.8	.1	.4	11.5	*62.6*	11.3	*62.8*
Services	32.2	32.4	30.0	-.2	2.2	51.5	*62.5*	51.4	*63.0*
Government 2/	30.8	31.6	29.1	-.8	1.7	69.7	*44.2*	70.9	*44.6*

Revised to 1976 Benchmark. *Establishment Series began January 1974.*

1/ *Current month preliminary.*

2/ *Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.*

Prepared by the Montana Employment Security Division in Cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XI

MONTANA FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In Thousands)

1976

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	95.5	95.4	96.5	97.6	98.7	98.9	99.0	98.4	99.5	101.2	102.2	102.6	98.8
Manufacturing	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9
Mining	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
Contract Construction	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.7	.8
Transport. & Public Utilities	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	23.3	23.0	23.8	24.7	25.2	25.5	26.1	25.9	26.1	26.0	26.3	26.6	25.2
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate .	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.6
Services	28.3	28.3	28.5	28.6	28.8	28.9	29.4	29.5	29.8	29.7	29.9	29.9	29.1
Government1/	30.3	30.5	30.6	30.6	30.8	30.3	29.1	28.5	29.2	31.0	31.6	31.8	30.4

1977

Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	101.4	101.7	103.4	104.1	105.9	109.8	110.1
Manufacturing	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.1
Mining	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
Contract Construction	.7	.7	.7	.8	1.0	1.0	1.1
Transport. & Public Utilities	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.8
Wholesale & Retail Trade	26.0	25.9	26.6	26.9	29.0	30.6	31.6
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate .	6.8	6.8	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.1	7.2
Services	29.9	30.1	30.2	30.3	31.3	32.4	32.2
Government1/	31.2	31.4	32.3	32.3	30.8	31.6	30.8

1/ *Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged. Establishment Series began January, 1974. Revised to 1976 Benchmark. Prepared by Montana Employment Security Division in cooperation with U. S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

COMPOSITE INDEX OF SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS* 5**

Composite Index of
SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS
1972 = 100

1976	
January	97.2
February	95.7
March	97.6
April	96.9
May	95.0
June	93.3
July	93.9
August	94.8
September	98.1
October	99.3
November	98.3
December	98.8
1977	
January	97.2
February	98.3
March	98.3
April	99.2
May	97.3
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	

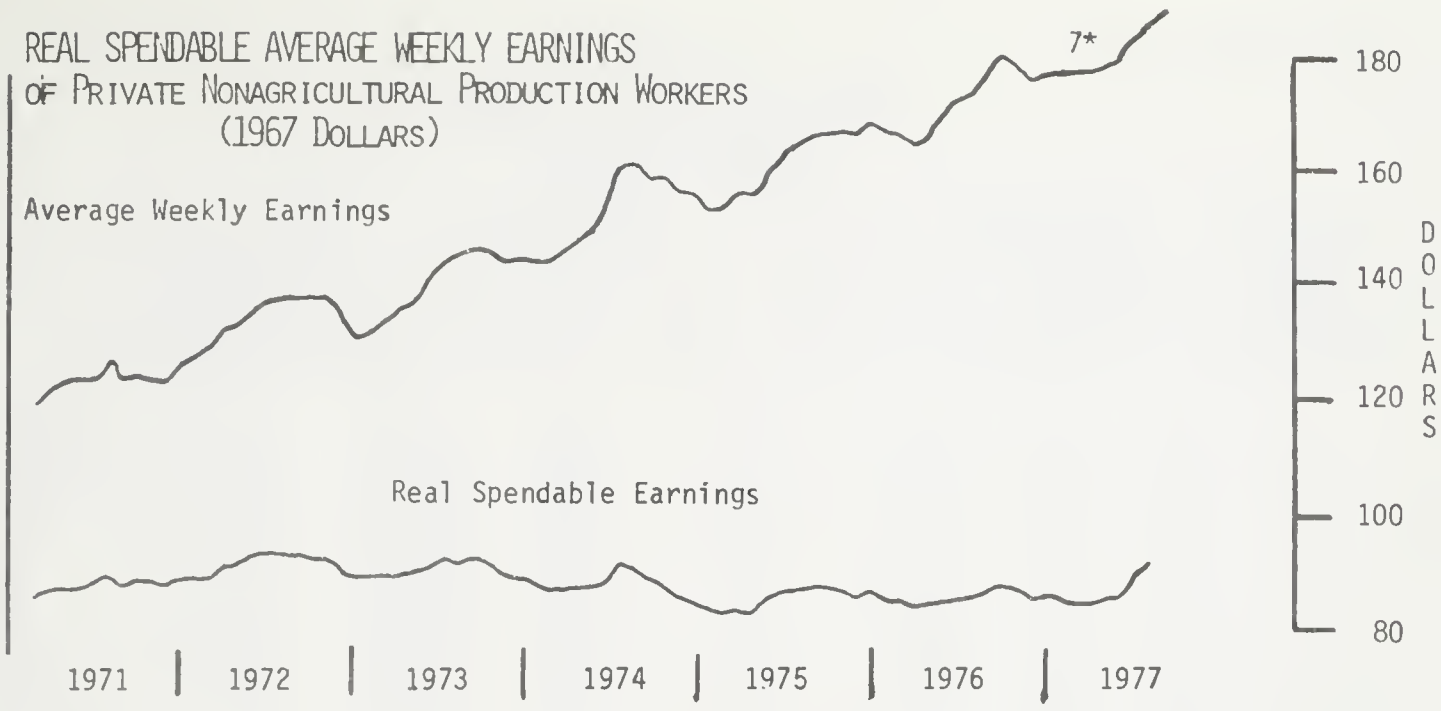
MONTANA'S COMPOSITE INDEX

Because of new employment benchmarks and the resultant changes in seasonal adjustment factors, the Montana Composite Index has been modified. The most recent and complete estimates of employment (based on the 1972 Standard Industrial Classification) necessitated a revision of raw data as well as a change in the base year of the index. It should be noted that, although the index has been downwardly revised, the trend in the series has not been altered. It is understood that the change from a 1967 to a 1972 base year will temporarily obscure the reader's frame of reference; however, it is believed that more accurate economic analysis will be the final result.

For detailed historical analysis, revisions back to 1972 will be provided upon request.

* *Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs in Manufacturing; Building Permits, and Average Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.*

** *Indicates last month of plotted data.*



	JULY 1977	JUNE 1977	JULY 1976
Gross Average Weekly Earnings	$187.25	$185.26	$172.67
Taxes Withheld	27.25	25.69	25.65
Spendable Earnings	163.60	159.58	147.02
Adjustment for Price Changes Since 1967	74.00	71.81	61.10
Real Spendable Earnings in 1967 Dollars	89.60	87.77	85.92

	Average Weekly Earnings[1]	Real Spendable Earnings[2]
1976		
July	172.67	85.92
Aug.	175.69	86.77
Sep.	178.92	87.72
Oct.	177.79	86.90
Nov.	175.02	85.54
Dec.	175.78	85.62
1977		
Jan.	175.94	85.17
Feb.	176.00	84.35
Mar.	174.94	83.40
Apr.	178.69	84.21
May	184.79	86.12
June	185.26	87.77
July	187.25p	89.60p
Aug.		
Sep.		
Oct.		
Nov.		
Dec.		

SPENDABLE EARNINGS

Average weekly real spendable earnings increased again in July to $89.60, which is a considerable improvement over early 1977 when real spendable earnings fell below $84. Not since before the recent recession have real wages approached $90 a week. Furthermore, some increase for August is virtually assured in light of recent labor contract settlements.

* *Indicates last month of plotted data.* *p: Preliminary.*

1/ Average weekly earnings of total private nonagricultural production workers.

2/ Real spendable average weekly earnings of private nonagricultural production workers.

TABLE XII

RESIDENCE DATA

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	Percent 1/ U. S.	
1975								
January	327.0	303.9	265.6	38.3	23.1	7.1	8.2	*
February	328.0	300.9	263.3	37.6	27.1	8.2	8.2	.1
March	326.8	301.0	265.9	35.1	25.8	7.9	8.7	.3
April	323.8	296.1	263.3	32.8	27.7	7.9	8.9	.2
May	326.8	300.0	266.1	33.9	26.8	7.9	9.2	.1
June	327.4	300.2	268.0	32.2	27.2	8.3	8.6	.1
July	326.8	300.5	268.6	31.9	26.3	8.1	8.4	.2
August	330.0	303.4	270.9	32.5	26.6	8.0	8.4	*
September	332.4	305.6	272.5	33.1	26.8	8.1	8.3	.3
October	335.3	307.3	272.6	34.7	28.0	8.4	8.6	.3
November	340.2	312.6	276.0	36.6	27.6	8.1	8.3	.2
December	340.8	311.2	272.6	38.6	29.6	8.7	8.3	.2
1975 Avg.	330.4	303.5	268.7	34.8	26.9	8.1	8.5	.1
1976								
January	335.4	308.3	275.8	32.5	27.1	8.1	7.8	*
February	336.6	310.1	276.7	33.4	26.5	7.9	7.6	*
March	336.0	308.9	275.9	33.0	27.1	8.1	7.5	*
April	337.2	311.9	276.8	35.1	25.3	7.5	7.5	*
May	335.5	309.9	276.8	33.1	25.6	7.6	7.3	*
June	332.0	305.7	272.6	33.1	26.3	7.9	7.5	.1
July	339.0	312.0	277.5	34.5	27.0	8.0	7.8	.1
August	340.5	311.6	277.9	33.7	28.9	8.5	7.9	.1
September	339.1	313.1	280.3	32.8	26.0	7.7	7.8	.1
October	339.6	314.8	281.8	33.0	24.8	7.3	7.9	.1
November	341.5	317.4	284.3	33.1	24.1	7.1	8.1	.1
December	339.4	315.2	281.5	33.7	24.2	7.1	7.8	.1
1976 Avg.	337.7	311.6	278.2	33.4	26.1	7.7	7.7	.1
1977								
January	349.6	323.4	289.2	34.2	26.2	7.5	7.3	.1
February	351.2	326.1	291.0	35.1	25.1	7.1	7.5	.1
March	348.7	325.1	290.2	34.9	23.6	6.8	7.3	.1
April	349.5	326.2	288.9	37.3	23.3	6.7	7.0	.1
May	348.5	325.3	290.4	34.9	23.2	6.7	6.9	.1
June	343.7	323.4	288.4	35.0	20.3	5.9	7.1	.2
July	351.7	327.3	291.1	36.2	24.4	6.9	6.9	3.3
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary.

NOTE: *Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.*

RESIDENCE DATA

TABLE XIII

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] County	Percent[1] State	
1975								
January	32.6	30.4	28.9	1.5	2.2	6.6	7.1	*
February	32.6	29.9	28.4	1.5	2.7	8.4	8.2	*
March	32.6	30.0	28.6	1.4	2.6	7.8	7.9	.1
April	32.6	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.8	8.7	7.9	.1
May	32.4	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.6	7.9	7.9	*
June	32.1	29.7	28.4	1.3	2.4	7.5	8.3	*
July	32.3	29.7	28.4	1.3	2.6	8.1	8.1	*
August	32.6	30.0	28.7	1.3	2.6	8.0	8.0	*
September	32.8	30.1	28.8	1.3	2.7	8.3	8.1	*
October	32.9	30.0	28.6	1.4	2.9	8.9	8.4	*
November	33.4	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.8	8.2	8.1	*
December	33.4	30.5	29.0	1.5	2.9	8.7	8.7	*
1975 Avg.	32.7	30.0	28.6	1.4	2.7	8.1	8.1	*
1976								
January	32.1	29.4	28.1	1.3	2.7	8.5	8.1	*
February	32.2	29.5	28.2	1.3	2.7	8.3	7.9	*
March	32.1	29.3	28.0	1.3	2.8	8.7	8.1	*
April	31.8	29.1	27.7	1.4	2.7	8.4	7.5	*
May	31.7	29.2	27.9	1.3	2.5	7.8	7.6	*
June	32.0	29.2	27.9	1.3	2.8	8.8	7.9	*
July	32.2	29.4	28.0	1.4	2.8	8.6	8.0	*
August	31.9	29.1	27.7	1.4	2.8	8.7	8.5	*
September	31.8	29.3	28.0	1.3	2.5	7.7	7.7	*
October	32.4	29.9	28.6	1.3	2.5	7.6	7.3	*
November	32.5	30.1	28.8	1.3	2.4	7.5	7.1	*
December	32.6	30.3	29.0	1.3	2.3	7.0	7.1	*
1976 Avg.	32.1	29.5	28.2	1.3	2.6	8.1	7.7	*
1977								
January	33.7	31.1	29.7	1.4	2.6	7.6	7.5	*
February	33.3	31.0	29.6	1.4	2.3	6.8	7.1	*
March	33.2	31.0	29.6	1.4	2.2	6.5	6.8	*
April	32.8	30.6	29.1	1.5	2.2	6.6	6.7	*
May	32.6	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.0	6.2	6.7	*
June	32.6	30.8	29.4	1.4	1.8	5.5	5.9	*
July	32.4	30.1	28.7	1.4	2.3	6.9	6.9	.6
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

TABLE XIV

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

RESIDENCE DATA

Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	State	
1975								
January	46.9	44.0	42.3	1.7	2.9	6.1	7.1	*
February	47.1	43.8	42.1	1.7	3.3	7.1	8.2	*
March	47.0	43.8	42.2	1.6	3.2	6.7	7.9	.1
April	47.5	43.9	42.4	1.5	3.6	7.6	7.9	*
May	47.2	44.1	42.5	1.6	3.1	6.5	7.9	*
June	47.2	44.2	42.7	1.5	3.0	6.4	8.3	*
July	47.7	44.6	43.2	1.4	3.1	6.5	8.1	*
August	48.1	44.9	43.3	1.6	3.2	6.7	8.0	*
September	48.3	45.0	43.5	1.5	3.3	6.8	8.1	.2
October	48.0	44.7	43.1	1.6	3.3	6.8	8.4	.2
November	49.0	45.9	44.2	1.7	3.1	6.4	8.1	*
December	48.5	45.4	43.7	1.7	3.1	6.4	8.7	*
1975 Avg.	47.7	44.5	42.9	1.6	3.2	6.7	8.1	*
1976								
January	46.7	43.6	42.1	1.5	3.1	6.7	8.1	*
February	47.3	44.3	42.8	1.5	3.0	6.3	7.9	*
March	47.5	44.5	43.0	1.5	3.0	6.3	8.1	*
April	47.7	44.7	43.1	1.6	3.0	6.2	7.5	*
May	48.2	45.4	43.9	1.5	2.8	5.7	7.6	*
June	47.7	44.6	43.0	1.6	3.1	6.4	7.9	*
July	47.7	44.7	43.2	1.5	3.0	6.2	8.0	*
August	47.9	44.9	43.3	1.6	3.0	6.3	8.5	*
September	48.6	45.8	44.3	1.5	2.8	5.8	7.7	*
October	49.4	46.6	45.1	1.5	2.8	5.7	7.3	*
November	50.2	47.4	45.9	1.5	2.8	5.5	7.1	*
December	50.2	47.4	45.9	1.5	2.8	5.6	7.1	*
1976 Avg.	48.2	45.3	43.8	1.5	2.9	6.0	7.7	*
1977								
January	51.4	48.2	46.7	1.5	3.2	6.2	7.5	*
February	52.3	49.2	47.6	1.6	3.1	5.9	7.1	*
March	51.9	49.3	47.7	1.6	2.6	5.0	6.8	*
April	51.0	48.3	46.6	1.7	2.7	5.3	6.7	*
May	50.3	47.6	46.0	1.6	2.7	5.4	6.7	*
June	50.2	48.2	46.6	1.6	2.0	4.0	5.9	*
July	50.9	48.5	46.9	1.6	2.4	4.7	6.9	*
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.
2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.
** Under 50.*
Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

TABLE XV

MONTANA HOURS AND EARNINGS

For Private Nonagricultural Industries

JULY 1977

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earning		
	July 1977	June 1977	July 1976	July 1977	June 1977	July 1976	July 1977	June 1977	July 1976
TOTAL PRIVATE	$187.25	185.26	172.67	35.0	34.5	36.2	$5.35	5.37	4.77
MANUFACTURING	271.23	270.26	235.78	41.6	41.9	38.4	6.52	6.45	6.14
Durable Goods	274.98	277.78	233.02	42.5	43.0	38.2	6.47	6.46	6.10
Primary Metal Industries	297.41	287.96	277.50	40.3	39.5	37.0	7.38	7.29	7.50
Nondurable Goods	263.46	251.02	242.35	39.5	39.1	38.9	6.67	6.42	6.23
Food and Kindred Products	234.50	231.57	228.80	41.8	41.5	40.0	5.61	5.58	5.72
MINING	335.58	333.17	309.88	42.0	41.5	43.4	7.99	7.98	7.14
Metal Mining	336.04	324.32	310.06	38.1	39.6	42.3	8.82	8.19	7.33
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	369.08	352.47	320.78	37.7	36.3	39.7	9.79	9.71	8.08
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	318.89	322.09	265.86	41.2	41.4	42.2	7.74	7.78	6.30
Communications, Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	273.07	272.21	234.21	42.6	42.6	41.6	6.41	6.39	5.63
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	151.30	149.63	133.50	34.0	32.6	35.6	4.45	4.59	3.75
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	130.32	128.43	124.20	36.2	36.8	36.0	3.60	3.49	3.45
SERVICES	112.40	109.96	110.92	29.5	29.4	31.6	3.81	3.74	3.51

Data for current month are preliminary.
Averages are based on gross earnings, including overtime and premium pay.
Selected Industries series began January 1950; Total Private Sector series began January 1969 (May 1972 issue).
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XVI

MONTANA LABOR TURNOVER RATES

In Manufacturing and Mining Industries

(per 100 employees)

JUNE 1977

	ACCESSION RATES						SEPARATION RATES					
	Total			New Hires			Total			Quits			Layoffs		
	June 1977	May 1977	June 1976	June 1977	May 1977	June 1976	June 1977	May 1977	June 1976	June 1977	May 1977	June 1976	June 1977	May 1977	June 1976
MANUFACTURING	5.3	3.3	5.4	4.3	2.6	4.7	2.9	3.1	2.6	1.9	1.5	1.4	0.4	0.9	0.5
Durable Goods	5.3	3.5	5.7	4.6	2.6	4.7	2.6	2.5	2.9	1.6	1.2	1.7	0.4	0.7	0.5
Primary Metal Industries	5.9	4.3	7.8	3.3	0.8	4.4	2.0	3.7	2.3	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.2	2.1	1.0
Nondurable Goods	6.0	2.8	5.0	5.3	2.5	4.6	3.4	4.3	2.2	2.3	2.0	1.0	0.5	1.4	0.5
MINING	3.3	2.8	4.2	2.5	1.3	2.0	2.6	3.8	1.9	1.6	1.8	1.0	*	0.6	0.3
Metal Mining	2.5	2.8	2.9	0.4	0.1	0.4	1.4	2.1	1.8	0.4	0.1	0.4	*	0.3	0.0

* *Less than .05.*

Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Series began January 1959.

TABLE XVII

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY INDUSTRY

New business firms in Montana are a reflection of economic activity within the business community. Data furnished on this page and the following page are an aggregate of information supplied by the office of the Montana Secretary of State and the Montana Employment Security Division. These data should in no way be construed as being absolute. They are presented to indicate business trends during the survey period.

The chart on the following page is a break-down by county and labor market area of business starts in Montana during the current month and year to date, with a comparison to the previous year.

The following chart is a break-down of new businesses by industry, with a comparison to last year.

Industry	July 1977	July 1976	Year to Date 1977	Year to Date 1976
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	21	19	182	173
MINING	9	9	87	53
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	82	80	514	302
MANUFACTURING	13	19	125	85
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC, GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	19	8	104	55
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	94	73	692	357
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	34	28	265	151
SERVICES	92	87	804	535
GOVERNMENT	0	0	0	0
NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	4	0	51	0
STATE TOTAL	368	323	2,824	1,711

TABLE XVIII

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY LABOR MARKET AREA

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS			
			Year to Date	
	July 1977	July 1976	1977	1976
STATE OF MONTANA	368	323	2,824	1,711
GREAT FALLS SMSA	38	26	309	145
BILLINGS SMSA	52	52	409	278
ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA	21	28	207	146
Beaverhead	3	1	25	23
Deer Lodge	2	4	17	19
Granite	1	1	6	6
Madison	3	3	24	14
Powell	3	4	16	12
Silver Bow	9	15	119	72
BOZEMAN LMA	37	28	276	146
Gallatin	25	23	209	116
Meagher	1	0	4	3
Park	11	5	63	27
GLASGOW LMA	12	10	80	76
Daniels	3	1	6	18
Phillips	0	1	7	2
Roosevelt	0	4	19	23
Sheridan	4	2	18	15
Valley	5	2	30	18
GLENDIVE LMA	12	9	96	54
Dawson	3	0	28	16
Garfield	1	2	4	5
McCone	0	2	5	9
Prairie	0	0	10	3
Richland	8	5	47	21
Wibaux	0	0	2	0
HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA	9	7	66	52
Big Horn	3	3	17	11
Carbon	3	1	24	19
Stillwater	2	1	17	13
Sweet Grass	1	2	8	9
HAVRE LMA	13	13	100	57
Blaine	2	1	13	5
Hill	11	10	64	43
Liberty	0	2	23	9
HELENA LMA	24	20	220	116
Broadwater	1	1	12	2
Jefferson	2	0	15	9
Lewis and Clark	21	19	193	105
KALISPELL LMA	56	43	344	199
Flathead	40	25	241	124
Lake	7	10	57	51
Lincoln	9	8	46	24
LEWISTOWN LMA	14	7	70	35
Fergus	9	5	47	20
Golden Valley	1	0	3	2
Judith Basin	0	0	4	0
Musselshell	4	2	14	10
Petroleum	0	0	0	2
Wheatland	0	0	2	1
MILES CITY LMA	14	12	83	69
Carter	0	1	5	3
Custer	8	5	50	28
Fallon	1	1	5	9
Powder River	0	2	2	6
Rosebud	5	3	18	20
Treasure	0	0	3	3
MISSOULA LMA	56	56	438	269
Mineral	3	2	9	7
Missoula	41	44	329	198
Ravalli	9	7	70	31
Sanders	3	3	30	33
SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA	10	12	126	69
Chouteau	0	1	11	15
Glacier	2	2	25	15
Pondera	2	5	38	13
Teton	2	3	11	14
Toole	4	1	41	12

Source of data: State of Montana Employment Security Division, Research and Analysis Section; Montana Secretary of State.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: CLAIM TO PAYMENT

Many of those persons who become separated from their jobs, enter our local Job Service offices for two reasons; to seek employment and to claim unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Claimant wage credits obtained from insured employers are examined to determine if the claim meets monetary eligibility requirements for UI benefits and, if so, for how much per week and for how many potential weeks is the claimant qualified.* Monetarily eligible claims are subsequently segregated according to criteria for establishing which party (claimant or employer) was most responsible for the job separation in question. Claims for job separations resulting from claimant actions (issues) are further subjected to the test of whether or not an individual's reduction in his potential benefit duration is warranted. If otherwise eligible and if availability criteria continue to be complied with throughout his actual unemployment duration, weekly benefit payments will commence with the claimant's second week of unemployment (a waiting week must be served under the Montana Law). The number and amount of such payments by county are shown in the table on the following page. Interstate payments in the table refer to payments made to individuals who now reside in other states but who had established wage credits in Montana based employment. Amounts shown in the table are financed through employer taxes paid to the Montana UI Trust Fund Account.

* *If sufficient wage credits have been secured by a claimant from sources other than insured employment, he may be eligible for benefits which are financed wholly or partially from federal funds.*

TABLE XIX DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

July 1977 COUNTY	INTRASTATE NO. OF PAYS	AMT. OF PAYS
BEAVERHEAD	109	6,613.00
BIG HORN	261	16,406.00
BLAINE	159	10,559.00
BROADWATER	22	1,444.00
CARBON	146	10,138.00
CARTER	21	1,324.00
CASCADE	1,991	132,890.00
CHOUTEAU	77	6,908.00
CUSTER	153	11,038.00
DANIELS	38	2,489.00
DAWSON	147	10,203.00
DEER LODGE	842	57,575.00
FALLON	16	1,019.00
FERGUS	166	10,528.00
FLATHEAD	1,259	87,930.50
GALLATIN	592	41,871.00
GARFIELD	12	877.00
GLACIER	389	25,644.00
GOLDEN VALLEY	11	671.00
GRANITE	117	8,638.00
HILL	392	26,200.00
JEFFERSON	244	17,330.00
JUDITH BASIN	23	1,657.00
LAKE	480	30,798.00
LEWIS & CLARK	1,066	82,057.00
LIBERTY	13	751.00
LINCOLN	679	41,562.00
MADISON	60	3,966.00
MCCONE	25	1,879.00
MEAGHER	34	2,064.00
MINERAL	113	7,917.00
MISSOULA	2,388	163,393.00
MUSSELSHELL	121	8,828.00
PARK	271	18,275.00
PHILLIPS	108	6,989.00
PONDERA	108	6,775.00
POWDER RIVER	18	1,287.00
POWELL	229	17,097.00
PRAIRIE	12	1,013.00
RAVALLI	580	38,011.00
RICHLAND	127	8,173.00
ROOSEVELT	284	16,793.00
ROSEBUD	277	21,295.00
SANDERS	272	17,073.00
SHERIDAN	27	1,710.00
SILVER BOW	3,066	197,321.00
STILLWATER	53	3,258.00
SWEETGRASS	24	1,767.00
TETON	69	4,096.00
TOOLE	76	5,343.00
TREASURE	8	455.00
VALLEY	599	42,081.00
WHEATLAND	21	1,545.00
WIBAUX	22	1,118.00
YELLOWSTONE	2,259	167,668.00
TOTAL FOR STATE	20,676	1,412,310.50
INTERSTATE	1,102	105,053.85
TOTAL	21,778	1,517,364.35

TABLE XX CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

COUNTY	January thru July 1977 NO. OF PAYS	Intrastate AMT. OF PAYS
BEAVERHEAD	1,590	113,171.00
BIG HORN	2,790	212,945.00
BLAINE	1,445	100,147.00
BROADWATER	590	42,833.00
CARBON	2,061	152,956.00
CARTER	172	12,290.00
CASCADE	21,116	1,526,619.50
CHOUTEAU	886	60,570.00
CUSTER	3,247	259,114.00
DANIELS	305	23,688.00
DAWSON	2,448	178,228.00
DEER LODGE	6,202	485,354.00
FALLON	328	26,943.00
FERGUS	3,779	281,005.00
FLATHEAD	19,402	1,432,987.99
GALLATIN	10,396	776,528.00
GARFIELD	212	17,196.00
GLACIER	4,610	337,044.00
GOLDEN VALLEY	185	11,873.00
GRANITE	1,411	107,440.00
HILL	3,949	290,096.00
JEFFERSON	2,484	197,642.00
JUDITH BASIN	271	21,165.00
LAKE	5,470	376,485.00
LEWIS & CLARK	11,780	904,259.97
LIBERTY	197	13,834.00
LINCOLN	9,128	692,589.00
MADISON	971	62,795.00
MCCONE	362	24,727.00
MEAGHER	649	50,899.00
MINERAL	2,399	176,233.68
MISSOULA	24,134	1,729,571.50
MUSSELSHELL	2,113	162,624.00
PARK	4,088	281,054.14
PETROLEUM	29	2,781.00
PHILLIPS	1,238	83,996.00
PONDERA	1,316	98,235.00
POWDER RIVER	241	21,679.00
POWELL	2,711	213,268.00
PRAIRIE	482	39,757.00
RAVALLI	6,398	445,900.00
RICHLAND	1,611	120,504.00
ROOSEVELT	2,335	158,406.00
ROSEBUD	3,368	274,984.00
SANDERS	3,189	225,539.00
SHERIDAN	551	41,017.00
SILVER BOW	20,717	1,595,669.00
STILLWATER	1,163	95,365.00
SWEETGRASS	358	29,068.00
TETON	1,127	80,907.75
TOOLE	1,474	115,444.00
TREASURE	314	25,283.00
VALLEY	4,212	303,197.00
WHEATLAND	325	27,699.00
WIBAUX	261	16,030.00
YELLOWSTONE	29,517	2,312,062.23
TOTAL FOR STATE	234,107	17,469,698.76
INTERSTATE	16,942	1,652,858.07
TOTAL	251,049	19,122,556.83

TABLE XXI

SELECTED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTIVITIES IN MONTANA

YEAR-TO-DATE

	1977	1976	Net Change	Percent Change
Initial Claims[1/]	29,147	30,355	-1,208	-4.0
Continued Claims[1/]	280,475	305,738	-25,263	-8.3
Number of Benefit Payments[1/]	251,049	262,307	-11,258	-4.3
Amount of Benefits Paid[1/]	$19,122,557	$17,121,208	$2,001,349	11.7

MONTHLY

	July 1977	June 1977	July 1976	Change From Year Ago Net	Change From Year Ago Percent
Initial Claims[1/]	4,306	3,637	4,460	-154	-3.5
Continued Claims[1/]	29,926	28,997	33,958	-4,032	-11.9
Number of Benefit Payments[1/]	21,778	25,075	23,375	-1,597	-6.8
Amount of Benefits Paid[1/]	$1,517,364	$1,858,651	$1,499,987	$17,377	1.2
Trust Fund Balance	$6,552,749*	$5,364,379*	$3,112,923*	$3,439,826	110.5

1/ *Regular Unemployment Insurance Program only.*
* *Includes loans from Federal Government.*

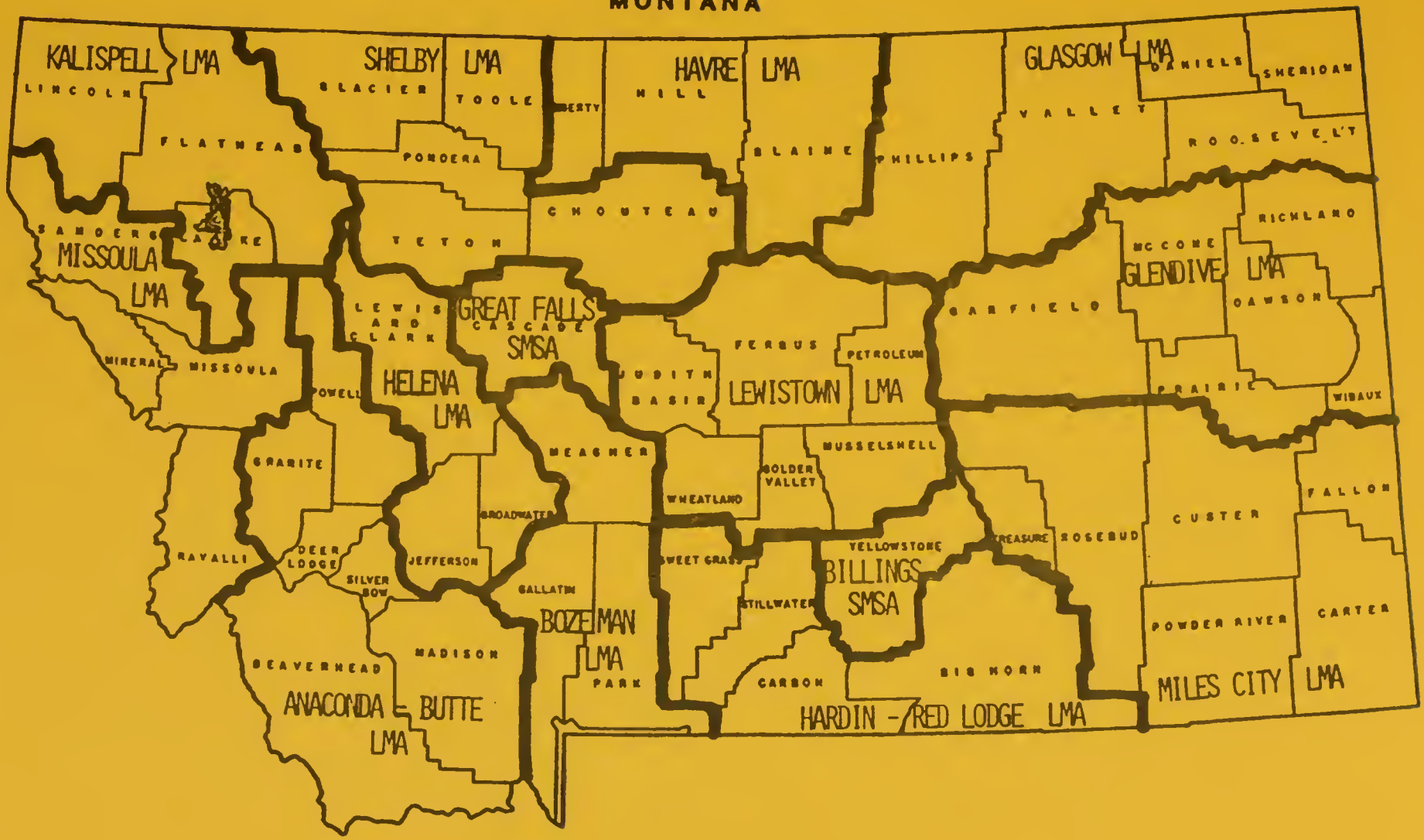
There are hints of a declining economy in this month's Unemployment Insurance statistics. After being adjusted to reflect seasonality, initial and continued claims were found to have increased for the third consecutive month. The number of benefit payments decelerated in July; but this was merely a partial recovery from a significant seasonally adjusted increase recorded in June. Evidence suggests, then, that negativism exists among these Unemployment Insurance data.

Fortunately, an economic downturn as implied by these statistics is slight, if it exists at all. In the first place, year-to-year comparisons find this year's figures consistently ahead of last year's. And secondly, increases in claims filed and payments made sometimes reflect growth in the general population, and subsequently, growth in the civilian labor force. Thus, the wait-and-see attitude prevails.

LABOR MARKET AREAS

IN

MONTANA



EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
P. O. Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59601

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
LAB 449

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

The Montana State Employment Security Division maintains 23 local Job Service Offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.